

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 9-22 are pending in the present application. Claims 9-15 are amended and claims 17-22 are added by the present amendment. Support for the new claims can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.¹ No new matter is presented.

In the Office Action, Claim 9 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Goedeke et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,722, herein Goedeke); Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goedeke in view of Kansai Electric Power (Japanese Patent Pub. No. 11-098628, herein Kansai); Claim 12 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goedeke in view of Owrutsky et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,153,722, herein Owrutsky); Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goedeke in view of Henneberry et al. (U.S. Patent Application Pub. No. 2007/0055889, herein Henneberry); Claim 16 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Goedeke in view of Kokusai (Japanese Patent Pub. No. 08-122399, herein Kokusai); and Claims 11, 13 and 14 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but are otherwise indicated as allowable.

Applicants appreciatively acknowledge the indication of allowable subject matter. Since Applicants consider that amended independent Claim 9 patentably defines over the applied references, Claims 11, 13 and 14 are presently maintained in dependent form. New independent 17-19 are added and incorporate the features of independent Claim 9 with the features of Claims 11, 13 and 14, respectively. Since Claims 11, 13 and 14 are indicated as

¹ Support for new Claims 20-22 can be found in paras. [0009], [0022], and [0077] of the specification, respectively.

having allowable subject matter in item 6 of the Office Action, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 17-19 patentably define over the applied references.

Applicants also appreciatively acknowledge the courtesy extended by Examiner Huynh by holding a personal interview with the undersigned on December 17, 2009. During the interview, Applicants' invention and proposed claim amendments were discussed in light of the applied references. The discussion below substantially summarizes the substance of the interview.

In response to the above noted rejections under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent Claim 9 recites novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 9 recites an arc monitor system, which determines a location of an arc discharge occurring in an electric facility, comprising:

- a plurality of monitor cameras, arranged at a plurality of locations in the electric facility, that capture images;
- an image processing unit that processes images received from the monitor cameras;
- a control logic unit that controls the image processing unit; and
- an operation unit, including a display section and an operation section, connected to the control logic unit,

wherein the image processing unit and the control logic unit extract a change in the images captured by the monitor cameras in response to a control signal generated from the electric facility on an occurrence of the arc discharge, and determine the location of the arc discharge as a two-dimensional coordinate based on the images captured by the monitor cameras.

In rejecting the features directed to the arc monitor system, the Office Action relies on Goedeke. Specifically, the Office Action asserts that the fire detection system in Goedeke detects a potential fire presence through the use of cameras (80 in Goedeke), ultraviolet detectors (30 in Goedeke) and infrared detectors (34 in Goedeke). Goedeke further describes an image processing unit in the form of a frame grabber (82 in Goedeke) which performs the function of digitizing and storing a selected image frame from the output of a video source,

and a processor (84 in Goedeke) that provides a stored instruction set for controlling the image processing unit.

Goedeke, however, neither teaches nor suggests a system capable of determining the location of an incident as a two-dimensional coordinate based on the images captured by at least two of the monitor cameras. While Goedeke is able to identify the position of the bright objects, this identification is done with respect to the viewed image of a single camera. Goedeke utilizes scan lines in a video image as an indexing reference to determine location, where each scan line of the camera image corresponds to a distance from a particular camera (see col. 10, ll. 60-67). The location provided by the fire detection system in Goedeke, however, is not a two-dimensional coordinate based on the images captured by at least two of the monitor cameras. Thus, Goedeke neither teaches nor suggests an arc monitor system that is able to “determine the location of the arc discharge as a two-dimensional coordinate based on the images captured by the monitor cameras,” as recited in Claim 1.

Kansai, Owrutsky, Henneberry, and Kokusai, applied secondary references, all fail to remedy the above noted deficiencies of Goedeke.

Accordingly, for at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claim 9 (and the claims that depend therefrom) under 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 be withdrawn.

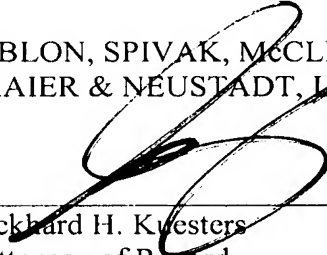
Furthermore, new Claims 20-22 are presented, which depend from independent Claim 9, and are therefore believed to be patentable for at least the reasons discussed above. Additionally, dependent Claims 20-22 recite more detailed features directed to determining the location of the arc discharge, which are not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 9-22 patentably

defines over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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